

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 AMMAN 03061 281123Z

43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

DRC-01 IGA-02 AID-20 /131 W
----- 057561

R 281040Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1496
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 3061

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RO, US, SA

SUBJECT: ROMANIAN INTEREST IN SAUDI ARABIA

1. DURING COURTESY CALL AMBASSADOR LEVENTE, RESIDENT
IN BEIRUT AND ACCREDITED TO AMMAN, SAID HE HAD BEEN ASKED
BY HIS GOVERNMENT TO MAKE SOUNDINGS ON QUESTION OF
ROMANIAN RELATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA.

2. HE EXPLAINED THAT ROMANIA HAD QUITE EXTENSIVE TRADE WITH
SAUDI ARABIA THROUGH JORDAN AND KUWAIT. DESIRE WAS TO
ESTABLISH SOME KIND OF PRESENCE IN JIDDA, PERHAPS AT THE
LEVEL OF A TRADE COMMISSIONER OR A CONSULAR PRESENCE TO
BEGIN WITH. HE HAD BROACHED QUESTION WITH SAUDI COLLEAGUE
IN BEIRUT WHO HAD REPLIED THAT SAUDI POLICY SAW ALL OF
THE QUOTE SOCIALIST UNQUOTE COUNTRIES AS ATHEISTIC AND
THEREFORE NOT STATES WITH WHICH SAUDI GOVERNMENT
WAS PREPARED TO HAVE CLOSER RELATIONS. ROMANIAN
HAD EXPLAINED IN GREAT DETAIL FACT THAT HIS GOVERNMENT
SUPPORTED FINANCIALLY SOME RECONSTRUCTION OF RELIGIOUS
BUILDINGS AND PAID CHURCH SALARIES IN ROMANIA. THIS APPEARED
TO HAVE LITTLE IMPACT ON SAUDI COLLEAGUE WHO SHIFTED
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PAGE 02 AMMAN 03061 281123Z

SUBJECT IMMEDIATELY TO POSSIBILITIES OF OBTAINING

ONE HUNDRED PRE-FABRICATED VILLAS FOR A RESORT PROJECT
IN WHICH HE WAS PERSONALLY INTERESTED.

3. LEVENTE ASKED ME DIRECTLY WHETHER USG WOULD SUPPORT
THROUGH OUR EMBASSY IN SAUDI ARABIA OR OTHERWISE THE
ROMANIAN APPROACH TO ESTABLISH CLOSER RELATIONS WITH
SAUDI ARABIA. IN MAKING HIS POINT HE STATED THAT THE
ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT WAS CONVINCED THAT THE US WISHED
TO CONTINUE TO PROMOTE ROMANIAN QUOTE INDEPENDENCE UNQUOTE
IN CONTEXT OF OUR RELATIONS WITH EASTERN EUROPE AND
SOVIET UNION. THIS WOULD BE ONE WAY WE COULD
CONTINUE TO BE OF HELP.

4. WHEN ASKED FOR MY PERSONAL ADVICE, I SUGGESTED ROMANIANS
MIGHT WISH TO MAKE APPROACH THROUGH SAUDI AMBASSADOR
HERE WHO IS, IN OUR JUDGEMENT, SOMEWHAT MORE FLEXIBLE
THAN BEIRUT COLLEAGUE AND PERHAPS SOMEWHAT BETTER
CONNECTED IN JIDDA. IN ADDITION, IT SEEMED TO ME
GOOD ROMANIAN RELATION IN CAIRO WOULD BE HELPFUL
IN ESTABLISHING THEMSELVES IN JIDDA. FINALLY,
ROMANIAN MOSLEMS SHOULD BE, AS SMALL AS THE COMMUNITY
IS, ALSO VALUABLE IN APPROACHING SAUDIS.

5. I SAID I WOULD REPORT LEVENTE'S INTEREST IN
THIS SUBJECT AND IF DEPARTMENT HAD ANY REPLY FOR
HIM, IT COULD BE PASSED BACK THROUGH AMBASSADOR GODLEY
TO WHOM LEVENTE SAID HE HAD ALSO SPOKEN BUT IN SOMEWHAT
MORE GENERAL TERMS. LEVENTE IS MAKING FAREWELL CALLS
IN THE EXPECTATION THAT A NEW RESIDENT ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR
WILL ARRIVE IN AMMAN SHORTLY.
PICKERING

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